4. The server system of claim 1, wherein the server management card includes a set of user interfaces in addition to the first LCD panel for configuring the server management card and accessing the stored status information from the server management card.

5. The server system of claim 4, wherein the set of user interfaces to the server management card includes at least one of a second LCD panel, a serial interface, and a LAN interface.

6. The server system of claim 4, wherein the first LCD panel includes a lockout key for arbitrating control of the server management card between the first LCD panel and the set of user interfaces.

7. The server system of claim 6, wherein the lockout key includes an associated LED for indicating a lockout status.

8. The server system of claim 1, wherein the first LCD panel is mounted on a front panel of the server system, the server system further comprising a second LCD panel substantially similar to the first LCD panel mounted on a back panel of the server system.

9.(Amended) A method of communicating with a computer system to configure the computer system and obtain status information from cards fitted in the computer system, the method comprising:

providing a management card in the computer system;

transmitting status information from the cards fitted in the computer system to the management card;

providing a first LCD panel mounted on the computer system and coupled to the management card;

transmitting the status information from the management card to the first LCD panel;

displaying the received status information on an LCD display of the first LCD panel;

entering configuration information on a keypad of the first LCD panel;

transmitting the configuration information from the first LCD panel to the management card; and

storing the configuration information on the management card.

10. The method of claim 9, and further comprising:

providing a set of user interfaces to the management card including at least one serial port interface and at least one LAN interface.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the set of user interfaces further includes a second LCD panel.

12. The method of claim 10 or claim 11, and further comprising:

pressing a lockout key on the keypad of the first LCD panel, thereby gaining control of the management card and locking out control of the management card through one of the interfaces in the set of user interfaces.

13. The method of claim 12, and further comprising:

providing a lockout status indication on the first LCD panel to indicate a lockout status.

14. The method of claim 9, and further comprising:

navigating through a menu displayed on the LCD display of the first LCD panel using navigation keys on the LCD panel.

15.(Amended) An LCD panel configured to be attached to a computer system and coupled to a management card of the computer system, the LCD panel comprising:

an LCD display;

a plurality of alphanumeric keys for entering alphanumeric strings that are displayed on the LCD display; and

a plurality of navigation keys for navigating through a menu displayed on the LCD display and selecting menu items.

16. The LCD panel of claim 15, and further comprising:
a lockout key for gaining and releasing control of the management card.

17. The LCD panel of claim 16, and further comprising:
an LED associated with the lockout key for indicating a lockout status.

18.(Amended) The LCD panel of claim 15, wherein the LCD panel is configured to retrieve and display computer status information, and transmit computer configuration information.